

Cathedral News

A large, vibrant floral arrangement is the central focus, housed in a classical stone urn. The bouquet is a mix of yellow daisies, pink roses, white lilies, and various greenery, including ferns and eucalyptus. The arrangement is set in a cathedral interior. In the background, a tall, dark wooden statue of a figure in prayerful pose stands against a wall with Gothic-style windows. To the right, rows of dark wooden pews are visible. The floor is made of large, light-colored stone tiles. The overall atmosphere is one of a formal, religious setting.

May 2026

Who's Who at the Cathedral...

...and who is the contact for what

Provost

The Very Rev'd Dr Stephen Holmes

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Manager

Chris Ahern

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From Father Ross

Dear friends,

Holy Week this year drew us deeply into the heart of our faith. Each service, in its own way, told the story of Christ's journey towards the cross, inviting us not simply to observe, but to walk alongside him. From the quiet intimacy of the early days of the week to the solemnity of the Passion, we were carried together through a narrative that continues to shape and transform us.



Among these sacred moments, our first Tenebrae service in the cathedral offered something particularly profound. Beginning in light, with candles fully ablaze, we slowly entered into darkness as each flame was extinguished in turn. It was a powerful reflection of betrayal, loss, and the gathering shadow of the cross – and yet, not without hope. The final light, still burning, spoke gently but clearly of Christ's presence that no darkness can overcome.

On behalf of the Provost and the whole ministry team, I would like to express our sincere thanks to all who gave their time and care throughout Holy Week – our choir and organist, who helped carry us so prayerfully through the liturgies; those who prepared the beautiful flowers and Easter Garden; those who offered hospitality; our readers; those who served in the sacristy; those who created the

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Easter Flower Cross; and those who tended the new fire at the Easter Vigil. It takes many hands and willing hearts to shape these sacred days, and what we shared together is a reminder that the cathedral is not simply a place, but a people – a family – gathered in faith, service, and love. And within that family, we hold especially in our prayers those who have not been able to be with us, particularly through illness or frailty. They are not forgotten, but remain very much part of us, held in love and in prayer.

As we move beyond Easter Day, the Church reminds us that Easter is not confined to a single Sunday. We continue to live in the light of the Resurrection, journeying through this season with hearts that are both mindful and joyful. Mindful of all that Christ has done for us, and joyful in the hope and new life that his resurrection brings.

In this Easter season, may we continue to walk together – attentive to God's presence, open to transformation, and rooted in the quiet, enduring hope that Easter proclaims.

With every blessing,

Fr Ross, Assistant Curate

Special Services

Sunday 3 May at 5.30pm

Our choir are singing Evensong with Bishop Ian and Provost Stephen at St James, Muthill (the Rev'd Alexander Lendrum of Muthill was one of the founders of St Ninian's Cathedral in the 1840s)

Ascension Day, Thursday 14 May

11.00am: Mass

7.00pm: Sung Mass

Sunday 17 May

5.30pm: Provost Stephen presides at Evensong at St James, Muthill

Sunday 24 May

3.00pm: Choral Evensong (Perth Festival of the Arts)

4.00pm: Perth Festival of the Arts organ recital

Thursday 4 June

7.00pm: Corpus Christi Sung Mass and Procession

Remembering Departed Loved Ones

The cathedral's Lady Chapel is a place of powerful spirituality where Jesus is present in the Sacrament, where we gather to pray, and where prayers are answered. In it a candle burns day and night to remind us of the loving presence of Jesus. It costs about £20 to keep the flame burning for a month and your donation can be given to the treasurer or Provost or made by bank transfer (subject - Lamp). You are invited to sponsor the flame for a month in memory of your loved ones. You can add their name to the sheet in the Cloister or contact Provost Stephen on provost.perth@gmail.com or Chris our treasurer on treasurer@perthcathedral.co.uk . In May the flame will burn in memory of **Adam Duncan**.

Fundraising Coffee Morning

for the school playground

Tuesday 26 May 10.30 - 12 noon

in the Chapter House

Join us for coffee and cake and hear about the plans
from the children themselves.

The Great Cathedral Spring Clean...

... will take place on **Saturday 30 May, between 10.00am and 12 noon**. Please come along and lend a hand! Coffee, cake and camaraderie at half time!



Collects & Readings for May 2026

Fifth Sunday of Easter - 3 May

Collect: Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Acts 7.55-60, Psalm 31.1-5,15-16, 1 Peter 2.2-10, John 14.1-14

Sixth Sunday of Easter - 10 May

Collect: God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Acts 17.22-31, Psalm 66.7-18, 1 Peter 3.13-22, John 14.15-21

Ascension Day - 14 May

Collect: Grant, we pray, almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens, so we in heart and mind may also ascend and with him continually dwell; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Acts 1.1-11, Psalm 47, 1 Ephesians 1.15-23, Luke 24.44-53

Seventh Sunday of Easter - 17 May

Collect: O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Acts 1.6-14, Psalm 68.1-10,33-36, 1 Peter 4.12-14;5.6-11, John 17.1-11

Day of Pentecost - 24 May

Collect: God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Acts 2.1-21, Psalm 104.25-35,37, 1 Corinthians 12.3b-13, John 20.19-23

The Most Holy Trinity (Pentecost 1) - 31 May

Collect: Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity: keep us steadfast in this faith, that we may evermore be defended from all adversities; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings: Genesis 1.1-2.4a, Psalm 8, 2 Corinthians 13.11-13, Matthew 28.16 -20

Sunday Readings

When things were cold earlier in the year we cut the Sunday Bible readings from three to two to shorten the Liturgy. Traditionally the Sunday Eucharist only had two readings, an Epistle and a Gospel, but a third reading was added in the late twentieth century so we would hear more of the Old Testament. Discussing this change, most people said they preferred two as it was hard to concentrate on three, so we will keep on with two Bible readings on Sunday as an experiment for

a year. The preacher has the choice of first reading which means we will still hear from the Old Testament, which is always present in the psalm. I hope this will help us go deeper into God's Word.



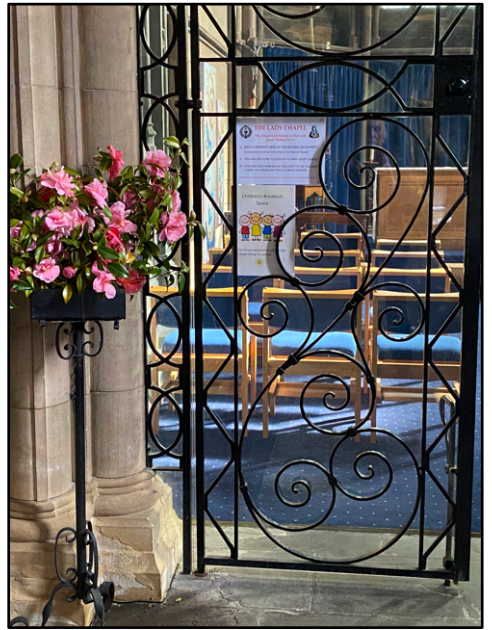
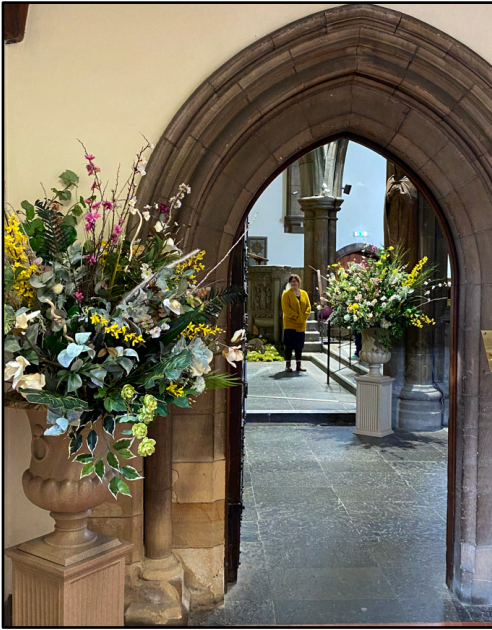
Provost Stephen

What's Been Going On?

A selection of photos of the Holy Saturday activities, with many thanks to all those who turned up and helped to beautify our lovely cathedral and entertain our younger members!







Our Primary School's Easter Service

Our Primary School Easter Service was a wonderful occasion and a real celebration of the children's hard work throughout the term. Each class shared something of the learning they had been doing across their subjects, giving everyone a chance to see and appreciate all they had achieved. It was especially lovely to welcome the school into our cathedral for the service, along with parents who came to support the children, and members of our congregation who joined us as well. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make it such a special occasion.

A highlight of the service was the way the children led different parts of the worship. Some of the older pupils read the Easter story beautifully, while the younger children brought smiles to everyone's faces with their cheerful 'Spring Chicken' song (*photo on next page*). Their enthusiasm and confidence shone through, making the service both joyful and meaningful.

Each Tuesday throughout the term, I have also had the privilege of visiting the school to spend time with every class. I meet with each class for around twenty minutes each week, during which we read Bible stories together, talk about what we think is happening in the story, and explore the questions and ideas that arise. We then finish with a related activity to help bring the story to life.





During this term, our workshops focused on Lent and the Easter story. The children asked many thoughtful and insightful questions, and it was wonderful to see their curiosity and engagement grow week by week. They approached each session with enthusiasm and clearly enjoyed the activities we shared together. It has been a pleasure to journey with them through these stories and to see their understanding develop over the term.

Maihri Greenwood

Sacristans

A really important but hidden job at the cathedral is that of the sacristans. They prepare and set up everything for our services, washing altar linen, dealing with bread, wine and vestments, polishing the silver, making sure we have the candles we need, and tidying things away after services. It involves work on Sunday mornings and big feasts, and preparation during the week at a convenient time.

Our sacristans, Margaret Barker, Alison Cunningham and Andrew Ballantyne, are all retiring and I want to thank them for the brilliant job they have done in recent years. I would like in particular to thank Margaret for staying on to help the new Provost settle in.

We now need to set up a new team to begin in June - if you are interested, speak to me. It is a great way of serving our cathedral and its worship, and can be really interesting work.

Provost Stephen

Cover Illustration

A beautiful Easter flower arrangement! Many thanks to Shirley and all the flower team who did such a good job on Holy Saturday.

Thank You!

Thanks to all who contributed to our Holy Week and Easter services this year. Not even Storm Dave could stop the blessing of the New Fire and lighting of the paschal candle at the Easter Vigil! The cathedral was decorated, including with beautiful flower arrangements; activities were laid on for children and our children contributed to our worship and refreshments; people were fed, welcomed and watered; Margaret and the sacristans, our ministry team, and Erica and the servers made the most important liturgies of the year profound acts of worship; music is essential to the life of a cathedral and Geoff and our choir did wonders; and thanks also to all of you who do what Christians do: come together in worship, contribute financially to your church, and pray for our cathedral and its mission.

We had a lot of visitors who commented favourably on our worship and welcome, but we should also remember those members of our community who are infirm and unable to come here but support us in their prayers as we support them.

Provost Stephen



And huge thanks go to Wendy, aka Mrs Editor, who, when the editor recently broke his wrist, stepped into the breach to get this issue (slightly shorter than usual) produced and sent out in time. She had been prepared for putting on the editor's socks in the morning but didn't bat an eyelid when presented with doing the May magazine as well!

Mary's Challenge

Did you manage to find the dog (*pictured right*) hidden in the walls of the cathedral? If you haven't been able to sleep since the last issue, spending fretful nights mentally examining the walls, the aforementioned hound can be found low down (Mary height!) on the left of the yard door as you go out.



Caption Competition!



If anyone thinks they can improve on 'Two top birds looking relieved and happy at not being the Easter Day roast' please get in touch with the editorial suite at *Cathedral News*.

Christian Aid Book Sale

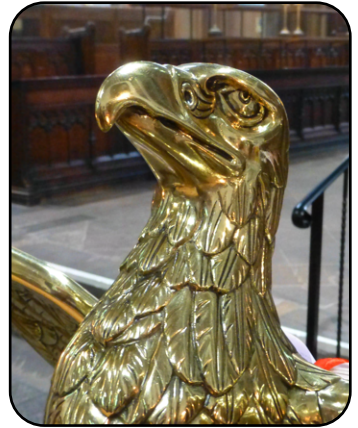
It's still not too late to donate your unwanted books to the Perth Christian Aid book sale which will take place in Kinnoull Church on Saturday 9 May. Please leave donations at the back of the cathedral, for onward transport to Kinnoull. Along with the cathedral, other churches in Perth also contribute books and manpower. Thank you!

Lost!

Two pairs of secateurs bearing the name Duncan were mislaid at the Holy Saturday flower arranging session. If anyone knows where they might be, or has inadvertently taken them home, please get in touch with Wendy - thank you!

Eddie the Eagle says...

I had to arm-wrestle my old friend the Very Rev'd GTS Farquhar for the right to fill the last remaining half page in this magazine. He, being somewhat dead at the moment, did not put up much of a fight. Suffice it to say, in his diary entries for May 1926 he was most concerned about the General Strike and whether his daily Scotsman would get through to his breakfast table. He was an ardent Conservative and it would be hard to imagine any clergy person these days referring to strikers in the way he did. Anyway, enough of him - here's my news...oh, is that all the...



Times of Services etc

A warm welcome to everyone who comes to our services!

Sunday	Said Eucharist 9.30am; Sung Eucharist 11.00am Sunday Club 12.15-ish, after the end of 11.00 service in term time, for primary age children Choral Evensong 4.00pm on the third Sunday of the month
Tuesday	Morning Prayer 9.30; Rosary Group 1.00; Evening Prayer 5.30
Wednesday	Morning Prayer 9.30; Said Eucharist 11.00; Evening Prayer 5.30
Thursday	Morning Prayer 9.30, Evening Prayer 5.30 Toddler Church 10.30-12.00 in term time (for ages 0-5)
Friday	Morning Prayer 9.30 Said Eucharist 11.00am, with anointing and prayers for healing

And finally...

Please pass any contributions for the magazine to the editor, Jeremy Duncan, or email them to cathedralmagazine@gmail.com. The closing date for inclusion in the June magazine is **24 May**. Thank you!

**St Ninian's Cathedral
of the Scottish Episcopal Church in the
Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane.**

We are one of the family of Anglican churches throughout the world.

The cathedral is served by a clergy and lay team:

Bishop

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Tel: 01738 443173

Provost

The Very Rev'd Dr Stephen Holmes
provost.perth@gmail.com

Assisting Clergy

The Rev'd Philip Francis
The Rev'd Ross Stirling-Young

Lay Reader

Lis Burke

Ordinand

Dr Maihri Greenwood

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